

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 14507 192233Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 192108Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2625  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 14507

EXDIS

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EEC, GR, TU, PFOR  
SUBJ: TURKISH MINISTER EXPRESSES STRONG OPPOSITION  
TO GREECE EC MEMBERSHIP

DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED

1. SEPTTEL REPORTS OCTOBER 13-14 VISIT TO EC INSTITUTIONS  
BY KAMRAN INAN, TURKISH MINISTER OF ENERGY. OCTOBER 18  
COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT NATALI, WHO HAS ENLARGEMENT  
PORTFOLIO, DISCUSSED WITH THE AMBASSADOR INAN'S CALL  
ON HIM.

2. ACCORDING TO NATALI, INAN TOLD HIM THAT GOT RECOGNIZES  
THAT BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC DISPARITIES IT CANNOT REALIST-  
ICALLY EXPECT TO JOIN EC. INAN BLUNTLY CONTINUED THAT  
GOT IS OPPOSED TO GREEK EC MEMBERSHIP AND WILL TRY TO  
BLOCK IT. HE ARGUED THAT GREEK ACCESSION WOULD MAKE  
IMPOSSIBLE RESOLUTION OF GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS, SINCE  
GREECE WOULD LINE UP ITS EC PARTNERS AGAINST TURKEY ON  
AEGEAN AND CYPRUS ISSUES. INAN ALLEGEDLY CONCLUDED  
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THAT BECAUSE ALL THESE MATTERS ARE INTERLINKED, ANY  
COMMUNITY EFFORT TO ACCORD GREECE EARLY EC MEMBERSHIP  
COULD PROVOKE TURKEY TO ARMED ACTION. HE ALSO SAID THAT  
EC MEMBERSHIP FOR GREECE COULD PROMPT TURKEY TO ADOPT A  
"MINTOFF SOLUTION" -- I.E., DISENGAGEMENT FROM NATO, A  
DECLARATION OF NEUTRALITY, AND A REQUEST THAT SUCH  
NEUTRALITY BE GUARANTEED AND UNDERPINNED ECONOMICALLY

BY MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE EC.

3. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND ASKED IF INAN REALLY TALKED OF LEAVING NATO. NATALI REITERATED THAT INAN HAD SO SAID. WORKING-LEVEL COMMISSION OFFICIALS TOLD MISSION ONLY THAT DURING HIS CONVERSATIONS HERE INAN PROFESSED OPPOSITION TO EARLY GREEK MEMBERSHIP, THAT TURKEY WOULD WORK ACTIVELY TO BLOCK IT AND ARGUED THAT AT A MINIMUM, EC-TURKISH RELATIONS SHOULD BE RESTRUCTURED, POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE TURKEY IN THE COMMUNITY'S POLITICAL COOPERATION, BEFORE GREECE ACHIEVES MEMBERSHIP. NATALI'S CHEF DE CABINET PENZA TOLD DCM THAT HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND INAN'S REMARKS ON "NEUTRALITY" TO MEAN WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO, BUT THEY DID IMPLY THAT TURKEY WOULD SEEK MORE ACTIVELY TO BE A "BRIDGE" BETWEEN EAST AND WEST.

4. COMMENT: AS NOTED IN SEPTTEL REPORT OF INAN'S VISIT AND PRESS CONFERENCE, SO FAR AS MISSION IS AWARE, THIS IS FIRST TIME A GOT MINISTER HAS TAKEN POSITION WITH EC OFFICIALS AND PUBLICLY THAT TURKEY IS OPPOSED TO GREECE EC MEMBERSHIP AND PREPARED TO OBSTRUCT IT. WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO JUDGE EXTENT TO WHICH INAN'S ALLEGED BLUNT REMARKS TO NATALI REFLECT GOT POSITION AND INTENTIONS. (MOREOVER IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NATALI, REFLECTING ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNS ABOUT SECURITY

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IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, COULD HAVE EXAGGERATED INAN'S REMARKS, ALTHOUGH HE APPEARED TO BE RECOUNTING THE CONVERSATION FAITHFULLY.) FROM COMMENTS MADE BY AN OFFICER OF TURKISH MISSION HERE, AS WELL AS FROM HIS GENERAL REPUTATION IN BRUSSELS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT INAN IS A BLUNT, ARTICULATE MAN WHO UNDERSTANDS THE USE OF HYPERBOLE TO MAKE A POINT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT INAN PERSONALLY IS PRO-NATO AND PRO-WEST, ALTHOUGH WE ARE AWARE FROM RECENT EMBASSY ANKARA REPORTS, AND FROM HIS COMMENTS TO NATALI, THAT HE HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED BY IMPASSE IN U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS AND WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE GENERAL LACK OF CONCERN FOR TURKEY'S NEEDS ON THE PART OF ITS WESTERN ALLIES. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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